

Appln. No. 10/030,303

Attorney Docket No. 10541-929

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amendment): A Process process for forming a planiform piece ~~intended, in particular, in a mould having a die and a punch for use as the~~ interior fittings of motor vehicles, ~~in which the process comprising:~~

~~covering a face of a layer of support material (1) is covered, at least on one of its faces (2) and at least in the an area of a portion of the layer of support material (3), at least, of its contour, or so-called portion to be bordered, with a cladding sheet (4) and said;~~

~~pre-positioning a cutting tool between said cladding and said support material along said portion;~~

~~cutting the support (1) is cut material along said portion to be bordered (3) in such a way that said cladding (4) projects from said support material (4) in the area of said portion; and characterised by the fact that a cutting tool (5) is pre-positioned~~

~~forming the support material and cladding into the planiform piece having a predefined shape as defined by the die, and~~

~~wherein the cutting and forming steps are performed simultaneously.~~

~~pre-positioning a cutting tool between said cladding (4) and said support (1) material along said portion to be bordered (3) and said cutting is simultaneously effected with said cutting tool (5), when the support (1) material is covered by the cladding (4).~~

2. (Currently Amended): The pProcess according to claim 1, ~~in which, in a mould (10) comprising a punch (11) and a die (12), defining between them an air gap (13) and movable towards one another to enable the mould to be closed in a so-~~

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called ~~'forming' direction (14)~~; wherein pre-positioning further comprises pre-positioning ~~[[-]] said support (1) material and said cladding (4) are positioned~~ between said die (12) and said punch (14), said support (1) material and said cladding (4), placed facing one another in said a forming direction (14), each being constituted by a first zone (15a), located in air gap (13), and by a second zone (15b), extending beyond said air gap (13) ~~[[-]]~~ and wherein

~~[[-]]~~ said cutting tool (5) is positioned in the vicinity of the limit between said first zone (15a) and said second zone (15b) of said support (1) ~~and/or of said cladding (4).~~

3. (Currently Amended): The P~~rocess~~ according to claim 2, ~~in which:~~ further comprising

~~[[-]]~~ adhering said support (1) material and said cladding (4) ~~are adhered to one another by closing said mould (10) in said forming direction (14), and~~

~~[[-]]~~ holding said support (1) and said cladding ~~(4) are held in position~~ using said cutting tool against the punch (11) or the die (12), in the area of their said second zone (15b) so as to control their movement in the planes orthogonal to said forming direction (14), when the mould closes.

4. (Currently Amended): The P~~rocess~~ according to claim 3, ~~in which:~~ further comprising ~~[[-]]~~ holding said support (1) ~~is held in position against the punch (11) during the closing of the mould by applying a cutting portion (16) of said cutting tool (5) with a controlled pressure against said punch (11), to obtain a sliding contact of said support (1) material between the latter, and~~

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applying a pressure increment ~~is applied~~ to said cutting portion ~~(16)~~ of said cutting tool ~~(5)~~, for cutting purposes.

5. (Currently Amended): The P~~rocess~~ according to claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein said punch ~~(11)~~ and/or said die ~~(12)~~ are moved towards one another when the mould closes and the amount of movement of said punch ~~(11)~~ and/of said die ~~(12)~~ originating from the closing of the mould is applied directly ~~or indirectly~~ to said cutting tool ~~(5)~~, for cutting purposes.

6. (Currently Amended): The P~~rocess~~ according to claim 2, ~~in which cutting and the closing of the mould are co-ordinated by~~ further comprising controlling the path of the cutting tool in relation to the relative path of the die ~~(12)~~ and of the punch ~~(11)~~ in order to perform ~~these two operations~~ cutting and closing of the mould simultaneously.

7. (Currently Amended): The P~~rocess~~ according to claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein said support ~~(1)~~ is wedged in the area of the limit between said first zone ~~(15a)~~ and said second zone ~~(15b)~~, against said die ~~(12)~~ or said punch ~~(11)~~, prior to cutting.

8. (Currently Amended): A d~~Device~~ for forming a planiform piece having a support material and a cladding intended, in particular, for the interior fittings of motor vehicles, including:

[[~~-~~]] means ~~(19)~~ for covering a layer of support material ~~(4)~~, on at least one of its faces ~~(2)~~ and in the area of a portion ~~(3)~~, at least, of its contour, ~~or se-~~

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called '~~portion to be bordered~~', with a cladding sheet (4), through the changeover of said means (19) from a first configuration to a second configuration[[.]]

means for forming the planiform piece into a predefined shape; and

[[.]] means (20) for cutting said support (1) along said portion to be bordered (3) in such a way that said cladding (4) projects beyond said support (1) in the area of said portion to be bordered, said cutting means (20) being constituted by a cutting tool (5), suitable for being positioned between said cladding (4) and said support (1), along said portion to be bordered (3), and for permitting simultaneous cutting and forming when the means (19) for covering the support change over from their said first to their said second configuration.

9. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 8, ~~in which~~ wherein said means (24) for covering the support (1) are constituted by a mould (10) including a punch (11) and a die (12), defining between them an air gap (13) and movable towards one another to permit the closing of the mould in a direction, or so-called forming direction (14).

10. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 9, ~~in which~~ wherein said mould comprises:

[[.]] means (21) for positioning said support (1) and/or means (22) for positioning said cladding (4); capable of permitting their placing in such a way that said support (1) and said cladding (4) are placed facing one another in said forming direction (14) and are each constituted by a first zone (15a) located in the air gap (13) and a second zone (15b) projecting from said air gap (13), and

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[[-]] means ~~(23)~~ for positioning said cutting tool ~~(5)~~ capable of permitting its placing in the vicinity of the limit between said first zone ~~(15a)~~ and said second zone ~~(15b)~~ of said support ~~(1)~~ and/or said cladding ~~(4)~~.

11. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 10, wherein in which said means ~~(21)~~ for positioning the support ~~(4)~~ or said means ~~(22)~~ for positioning the cladding ~~(4)~~ are constituted by said cutting tool ~~(5)~~ and designed to be capable of holding said support ~~(1)~~ or said cladding ~~(4)~~ in position against the punch ~~(11)~~ or the die ~~(12)~~, in the area of their said second zone ~~(15b)~~, so as to control their movement in the planes orthogonal to said forming direction ~~(14)~~, when the mould closes.

12. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 9, wherein in which said means ~~(23)~~ for positioning the cutting tool ~~(5)~~ are constituted by a support ~~(24)~~ articulated in relation to an intermediate member ~~(25)~~ co-operating, directly or otherwise, with the punch ~~(11)~~ or the die ~~(12)~~.

13. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 12, wherein in which:

[[-]] said means ~~(21)~~ for positioning the support ~~(4)~~ are constituted by said cutting tool ~~(5)~~, and are capable of coming to bear against said punch ~~(11)~~ and said means ~~(23)~~ for positioning the cutting tool ~~(5)~~ further include a jack ~~(29)~~, acting on said support ~~(24)~~ for the cutting tool ~~(5)~~ so as to enable a controlled pressure to be applied to a cutting portion ~~(16)~~ of said cutting tool ~~(5)~~ against said punch ~~(11)~~, to

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obtain a sliding contact of said support (4) between the latter, and

[[-]] said mould (10) further include means (30) for applying a pressure increment to said cutting portion (16) of said cutting tool (5), for cutting purposes.

14. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 12, including pressing means (31) for applying to said support (24) of the cutting tool (5) and/or to said cutting tool (5) itself the amount of movement of said punch (11) and/or of said die (12) originating from the closing of the mould, for cutting purposes.

15. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 14, wherein in which said pressing means (31) are constituted by stops (32) secured to said die (12) and extending towards the punch (11), outside the air gap (13), so as to be able come to bear against the support (24) of said cutting tool (5) and/or against the cutting tool (5) itself, when the mould closes.

16. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 14, including wedges (37), secured to the support (24) of the cutting tool (5) and/or the stop (32), so as to control the path of the cutting tool to complete the closing of the mould and the cutting operation simultaneously.

17. (Currently Amended): The dDevice according to claim 14, including elastic return means located between a fixed point on the mould (40) and the support (24) of said cutting tool (5) and/or said intermediate member (25), so as to restore it to the initial position.